transmitter and a Studio for production of programmes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Due to constraints of manpower, resources and other infrastructural facilities, at present news bulletins are telecast from State capitals only in the language of that State, Urdu being the only exception.

Successful candidates not appointed by Air India

3565. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of candidates every year are interviewed after clearing written tests by Air India for various posts, but the successful candidates are not appointed for years, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the interviews held for various posts during the last year and this year and the number of candidates given appointment so far, post-wise; and

(c) the reasons for delay in sending appointment letters to the remaining successful candidates and by when they are likely to be given appointment?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Extension of numbering facility system for customs clearance of Cargo

3566. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Export Organisations had urged Government to extend the numbering facility system for customs clearance of cargo laden trucks at the Petrapole Benapole border point in West Bengal etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such demands have some justification;

(d) whether Government propose to accept these demands to reduce traffic congestion at this point; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) About 800 to 1000 trucks per day carry export cargo from Petrapole in West Bengal to Benapole in Bangladesh border. At Benapole/Bangladesh, authorities are in a position to accept only about 250 trucks a day, resulting in the balance of trucks causing severe congestion and bottleneck on the Petrapole Benapole Approach Road. In order to provide for smooth flow of goods from Petrapole to Benapole the Customs Commissionerate West Bengal introduced a system of giving serial numbers to about 250 trucks which alone move to Bangladesh in a day. The numbers are given on a first come first served basis. The rest of the trucks which have not obtaineld the serial numbers from the Customs office at Petrapole are moved from the Highway and parked in the Parking lots adjoining Petrapole. The above system reduced the bottleneck in the Petrapole—Benapole Highway.

FIEO has suggested that this facility may be computerised and extended to two other approach roads through which trucks carrying export cargo to Bangladesh pass. These suggestions are under consideration.

New guidelines by Medical Council of India for internship of Medical Graduates

3567. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new guidelines have been issued the Medical Council of India to the medical graduates from the erstwhile Soviet Union for their internship;

(b) if so, the details and purpose thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the issue of new guidelines has created problems for the students who began internship period in different hospitals all over the country in August, 1995; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are being taken to help these students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) A candidate with recognised medical qualification is required to undergo full 12 months compulsory rotating internship after obtaining the qualification, either in India or in the country granting that qualification. The Medical Council of India has decided to permit students who have taken admission in recognised medical institutions in erstwhile U.S.S.R. before 1.1.95 to do 9 months internship in India after completion of 5 years medical studies in erstwhile USSR and remaining period of internship in India after obtaining the degree. For those students who have taken admission into recognised medical institutions in the erstwhile USSR after 1.1.95, Medical Council of India has decided to permit them to do 12 months internship training in India/ Russia after obtaining the requisite degree i.e. after one year preparatory course plus six year medical course in the erstwhile USSR.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Medical course in Russia is of six years duration after one year of preparatory course. The degree of M.D. 'Physician' is granted after this period of study. Earlier the Medical Council of India had decided not to grant provisional registration to studlents for doing internship in India unless the candidate had obtained the degree. The Medical Council of India in its meeting held on 31.7.96 and 1.8.96 has reviewed its earlier decision taking into consideration representations received from various sectors and has decided that the students who have taken admission to already recognised institutions prior to 1.1.96 can be permitted to do internship in India after one year preparatory course and five years medical course.

Basic facilities available at international and national airports

3568. SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic facilities are made available at international and national airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken in proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) have already provided all basic passenger amenities at its international and domestic airports from where scheduled commercial services operate. Improvement of facilities is a constant process, keeping in view the need for additional facilities and availability of financial resources.

Setting up of Private Banks by Corporate Sector

3569. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading corporated houses of the country interested in setting up private banks, are mounting pressure on the RBI to change its latest selection norms which virtually disallows the established companies from entering into the banking sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether RBI has decided a formula for selection of the private sector banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and